

Issue Docket

Conference Committee on House Bill 1

2024-25 General Appropriations Bill

Article IV - Judiciary

As of April 24, 2023

201 SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	IV-1	IV-1		
Cross-Agency Issues				
				<p>1) Judicial Pay Raise for District Judge Salary Increase House provides \$26,109,317 in General Revenue to increase estimated appropriations for all salaries that are determined based on a district judge's base salary amount as set by the General Appropriations Act. This increases a district judge base salary by 5.0 percent each fiscal year of the 2024-2025 biennium. The new district judge base salary would be \$147,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$154,350 in fiscal year 2025. The total estimated cost for this change would be \$36.8 million for the biennium for all Article IV entities, including End of Article and Retired Elected Class benefit costs of \$10.7 million.</p>
				<p>2) Similar Funding for Same Sized Courts House provides \$13,990,460 in General Revenue and 11 FTEs to reflect funding recommendations made by the 2020 Similar Funding for Same Sized Courts budget model. Biennial amounts and FTEs for each court are as follows:</p>
Schedule of Exempt Positions				
Chief Justice (1)	\$ 187,720	\$ 170,500		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
Justice (8)	\$ 185,220	\$ 168,000		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 3,870,486	\$ 3,596,185	\$ 274,301	See Cross-Agency Issue 1
B.1.1 BASIC CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 80,268,784	\$ 76,568,784	\$ 3,700,000	House provides \$3,700,000 in General Revenue for the following: (1) \$2,700,000 to provide BCLS to young people in the child welfare system and those experiencing mental and physical health challenges in schools and communities; and

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
B.1.4 JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HLTH	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 200,000	<p>(2) \$1,000,000 to provide 250 kiosks in communities throughout the state to assist low-income Texans facing technological barriers with remote court proceedings.</p> <p>House provides \$200,000 in General Revenue for Children's Mental Health Funding for the following:</p> <p>(1) \$150,000 to 10-14 Youth Systems Sequential Intercept Model Mapping workshops which identify resources and opportunities for diversion from the criminal justice system for people with mental illness; and</p> <p>(2) \$50,000 to create an Innovations Map, a resource for legal stakeholders that would identify youth-focused mental health services in every county.</p>

211 COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	IV-3	IV-3		
Schedule of Exempt Positions				
Presiding Judge (1)	187,720	170,500		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
Judge (8)	185,220	168,000		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUDGE SALARIES	\$ 3,957,177	\$ 3,682,876	\$ 274,301	See Cross-Agency Issue 1
B.1.1 JUDICIAL EDUCATION	\$ 31,382,272	\$ 31,182,272	\$ 200,000	House provides \$200,000 in General Revenue for additional continuing legal education training for Public Defenders.

COA COURTS OF APPEALS

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	IV-7	IV-7		
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	400.0	389.0		See Cross Agency Issues 2
Schedule of Exempt Positions				
Chief Justice (14)	\$ 172,285	\$ 158,736		See Cross Agency Issues 1
Justice (66)	\$ 169,785	\$ 155,400		See Cross Agency Issues 1
221 First Court of Appeals District, Houston				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 8,054,806	\$ 6,611,154	\$ 1,443,652	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 3,300,512	\$ 3,073,014	\$ 227,498	See Cross Agency Issues 1
222 Second Court of Appeals District, Fort				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 6,375,738	\$ 5,091,480	\$ 1,284,258	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 2,659,392	\$ 2,469,744	\$ 189,648	See Cross Agency Issues 1
223 Third Court of Appeals District, Austin				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 5,491,778	\$ 4,267,708	\$ 1,224,070	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 2,289,213	\$ 2,128,302	\$ 160,911	See Cross Agency Issues 1
224 Fourth Court of Appeals District, San Antoni				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 6,357,737	\$ 5,089,355	\$ 1,268,382	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 2,705,087	\$ 2,505,861	\$ 199,226	See Cross Agency Issues 1
225 Fifth Court of Appeals District, Dallas				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 11,421,293	\$ 8,958,399	\$ 2,462,894	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 4,753,323	\$ 4,398,440	\$ 354,883	See Cross Agency Issues 1
226 Sixth Court of Appeals District, Texarkana				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 2,837,862	\$ 2,372,372	\$ 465,490	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,175,655	\$ 1,100,992	\$ 74,663	See Cross Agency Issues 1
227 Seventh Court of Appeals District, Amarillo				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 3,555,833	\$ 2,880,293	\$ 675,540	See Cross Agency Issues 2

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,580,121	\$ 1,474,288	\$ 105,833	See Cross Agency Issues 1
228 Eighth Court of Appeals District, El Paso				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 2,841,863	\$ 2,381,931	\$ 459,932	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,112,115	\$ 1,032,624	\$ 79,491	See Cross Agency Issues 1
229 Ninth Court of Appeals District, Beaumont				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 3,593,652	\$ 2,936,414	\$ 657,238	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,514,626	\$ 1,409,260	\$ 105,366	See Cross Agency Issues 1
230 Tenth Court of Appeals District, Waco				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 2,839,861	\$ 2,373,659	\$ 466,202	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,268,363	\$ 1,181,688	\$ 86,675	See Cross Agency Issues 1
231 Eleventh Court of Appeals District, Eastland				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 2,845,862	\$ 2,419,538	\$ 426,324	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,156,308	\$ 1,074,422	\$ 81,886	See Cross Agency Issues 1
232 Twelfth Court of Appeals District, Tyler				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 2,837,862	\$ 2,377,004	\$ 460,858	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 1,249,575	\$ 1,162,900	\$ 86,675	See Cross Agency Issues 1
233 Thirteenth Court of Appeals District, Corpus Christi-Edinburg				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 5,484,797	\$ 4,221,225	\$ 1,263,572	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 2,363,003	\$ 2,202,092	\$ 160,911	See Cross Agency Issues 1
234 Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston				
A.1.1 APPELLATE COURT OPERATIONS	\$ 8,302,492	\$ 6,870,444	\$ 1,432,048	See Cross Agency Issues 2
A.1.2 APPELLATE JUSTICE SALARIES	\$ 3,470,550	\$ 3,225,824	\$ 244,726	See Cross Agency Issues 1

**Courts of Appeals
 Similar Funding for Same-Size Courts
 Allocation of Funding for 2024-25**

COA	Justices	Total SFSSC Request	Attorney Salaries	Non-attorney salaries	Employee Benefits (health and retirement contributions)	Other Operating Expenses	New FTEs
1	9	\$ 1,443,652	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 279,797	\$ 19,489	\$ 144,366	-
2	7	\$ 1,284,258	\$ 781,310	\$ 420,706	\$ 18,030	\$ 64,212	5.0*
3	6	\$ 1,224,070	\$ 848,000	\$ 357,885	\$ 18,185	\$ -	-
4	7	\$ 1,268,382	\$ 780,208	\$ 394,220	\$ 17,617	\$ 76,337	1.0
5	13	\$ 2,462,894	\$ 1,404,000	\$ 862,012	\$ 33,990	\$ 162,892	-
6	3	\$ 465,490	\$ 259,611	\$ 175,759	\$ 6,630	\$ 23,490	-
7	4	\$ 675,540	\$ 391,476	\$ 250,286	\$ 10,134	\$ 23,644	-
8	3	\$ 459,932	\$ 356,512	\$ 96,520	\$ 6,900	\$-	-
9	4	\$ 657,238	\$ 430,820	\$ 193,557	\$ 9,366	\$ 23,495	-
10	3	\$ 466,202	\$ 352,709	\$ 106,602	\$ 6,891	\$ -	2.0
11	3	\$ 426,324	\$ 264,555	\$ 155,374	\$ 6,395	\$-	-
12	3	\$ 460,858	\$ 340,495	\$ 106,642	\$ 6,809	\$ 6,912	-
13	6	\$ 1,263,572	\$ 933,464	\$ 311,155	\$ 18,953	\$ -	3.0*
14	9	\$ 1,432,048	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 268,349	\$ 19,333	\$ 144,366	-
Total	80	\$ 13,990,460	\$ 9,143,160	\$ 3,978,864	\$ 198,722	\$ 669,714	11.0

* The numbers for the 2nd and 13th COAs represent vacant staff positions compared to 2023 reported staffing levels that the courts indicate can't be funded in the 2024-25 biennium.

212 OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION, TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	IV-23	IV-23		
Cross-Strategy Issue				<p>1) Childrens Court Lump-Sum Annual Leave Payouts House provides \$300,000 in General Revenue for lump-sum annual leave payouts to judges and court coordinators at the childrens courts.</p>
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	311.7	354.7		<p>a. House provides 4.0 FTEs for Court Services Program.</p> <p>b. Senate provides 17.0 FTEs for Senate Bill 1045, or similar legislation, related to relating to the creation of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals with jurisdiction over certain civil cases, contingent upon enactment of the legislation.</p> <p>c. Senate provides 1.0 FTE for Senate Bill 1318, or similar legislation, related to the release of defendants on bail, the duties of a magistrate in certain criminal proceedings, and the appointment of certain criminal law hearing officers; creating a criminal offense, contingent upon enactment of the legislation.</p> <p>d. Senate provides 30.0 FTEs for Senate Bill 27, or similar legislation, related to the creation of a specialty trial court to hear certain cases; authorizing fees, contingent upon enactment of the legislation.</p>
Schedule of Exempt Positions				
Administrative Director, Group 7 (1)	211,500	211,500		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
Associate Judge (73)	139,077	126,000		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
A.1.1 COURT ADMINISTRATION	\$ 19,176,757	\$ 38,091,399	\$ 18,914,642	<p>a. House provides General Revenue funding for agency Court Services program staff needs, including:</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
				<p>(1) \$350,000 and 2.0 FTEs to provide technical assistance to specialty courts; and</p> <p>(2) \$308,000 and 2.0 FTEs to provide training on personal and courthouse security best practices.</p> <p>b. House provides \$200,000 in General Revenue to conduct a study of the staff judicial workload of the district and statutory county courts in the state. See also House Rider 16, District court Workload Analysis.</p> <p>c. Senate provides \$10,683,944 in General Revenue and 30.0 FTEs for Senate Bill 27, to implement the provisions of the bill contingent upon enactment of the legislation. See also Senate Rider 13, Contingency for SB 27.</p> <p>d. Senate provides \$6,230,246 in General Revenue and 17.0 FTEs for Senate Bill 1045, to implement the provisions of the bill contingent upon enactment of the legislation. See also Senate Rider 14, Contingency for SB 1045.</p> <p>e. Senate provides \$2,858,452 in General Revenue and 1.0 FTE for Senate Bill 1318, to implement the provisions of the bill contingent upon enactment of the legislation. See also Senate Rider 15, Contingency for SB 1318.</p>
A.1.2 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$ 72,536,742	\$ 67,720,433	\$ 4,816,309	<p>a. House provides General Revenue funding for information technology costs, including:</p>
				<p>(1) \$1,065,000 for 2,500 licenses and subscription services for appellate courts and judicial branch agencies.</p> <p>(2) \$1,090,758 to replace Information Technology equipment (including switches, routers, WiFi, and perimeter networking devices) nearing the manufacturer's end-of-life that provide networking services to the Article IV courts and agencies. The current system's switches and routers were last upgraded in 2011 and 2013.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
				b. House provides \$2,200,000 in General Revenue for developing and maintaining the Court Text Reminder program established by House Bill 4293, Eighty-Seventh Legislature, Regular Session, 2021. See also House Rider 14, Costs for Court Text Reminder Program.
				c. House provides \$460,551 in General Revenue with 1.0 FTE for computer hardware and software licensing updates and Information Technology Support for Child Support Courts.
B.1.1 CHILD SUPPORT COURTS PROGRAM	\$ 18,236,825	\$ 17,127,326	\$ 1,109,499	a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1
				b. See Cross-Agency Issue 1
B.1.2 CHILD PROTECTION COURTS PROGRAM	\$ 13,771,553	\$ 13,150,763	\$ 620,790	a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1
				b. See Cross-Agency Issue 1
D.1.1 TX INDIGENT DEFENSE COMM	\$ 164,746,213	\$ 113,346,213	\$ 51,400,000	a. House provides \$20,000,000 in General Revenue to assist rural communities in developing public defender services.
				b. House provides \$11,400,000 in GR-D 5073 to replace revenue shortfalls to GR-D 5073 to provide basic public defense services.
				c. House provides \$20,000,000 in General Revenue for in-person adjudication of felony cases associated with Operation Lone Star.
Guardianship Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation Deterrence Program.	IV-27, Rider #8 Rider Packet, page IV-1			House rider requires the agency to use \$2,332,445 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,181,778 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 27.7 FTEs for the Guardianship Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation Deterrence Program.
Contingency for SB 27		IV-28, Rider #13 Rider Packet, page IV-1		Senate rider make \$5,384,665 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,299,279 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 30.0 FTEs each fiscal year for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 27, contingent upon enactment of the bill.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Contingency for SB 1045		IV-28, Rider #14 Rider Packet, page IV-1		Senate rider makes \$3,171,514 in fiscal year 2024 and \$3,058,732 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 17.0 FTEs each fiscal year for implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 1045, contingent upon enactment of the bill.
Costs for Court Text Reminder Program	IV-28, Rider #14 Rider Packet, page IV-1			House rider requires the agency to use \$2,200,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 for providing and maintaining funding for the court text reminder program, established by House Bill 4293, Eighty-Seventh Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.
Contingency for SB 1318.		IV-28, Rider #15 Rider Packet, page IV-2		Senate rider makes \$2,732,165 in fiscal year 2024 and \$126,287 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue and 1.0 FTE each fiscal year for implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 1318, contingent upon the enactment of the bill.
District Court Workload Analysis	IV-28, Rider #16 Rider Packet, page IV-2			House rider directs \$200,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 to be used for conducting district workload analysis for the 30 most populous counties and reporting to the legislature information relating to judicial officers and court filings and clearances.
Lump Sum Annual Leave Payout	IV-29, Rider #17 Rider Packet, page IV-3			House rider requires the agency to use \$267,000 in Strategy B.1.1, Child Support Courts Program, and \$33,000 in Strategy B.1.2, Child Protection Courts Program to pay retirement payouts.

213 OFFICE OF THE STATE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	IV-30	IV-30		
Schedule of Exempt Positions (State Prosecuting Attorney)	170,247	154,000		See Cross-Agency Issue 1
A.1.2 STATE PROSECUTOR SALARY	\$ 352,109	\$ 328,162	\$ 23,947	See Cross-Agency Issue 1

243 STATE LAW LIBRARY

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
A.1.1 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS	IV-31 \$ 2,570,441	IV-31 \$ 2,400,441	\$ 170,000	House provides \$170,000 in General Revenue to purchase updates for titles removed from the Library's print collection during 2011, 2013, and 2017.

242 STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	IV-32	IV-32		
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	14.0	16.0		Senate provides 2.0 FTEs contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 21, or similar legislation, relating to the conduct of and complaints against current and former judges.
A.1.1 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT	\$ 2,696,451	\$ 3,191,399	\$ 494,948	Senate provides \$494,948 in General Revenue and 2.0 FTEs to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 21, contingent upon enactment of the legislation.
Contingency for SB 21		IV-33, Rider #2 Rider Packet, page IV-4		Senate rider makes \$494,948 in General Revenue and 2.0 FTEs to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 21, contingent upon enactment of the legislation.

241 JUDICIARY SECTION, COMPTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation	
	IV-33	IV-33			
Schedule of Exempt Positions					
District Judges and Criminal District Judges - State Base Salary (A.1.1) (491)	\$ 154,530	\$ 140,000		See cross-agency issue 1	
District Attorneys, Criminal District Attorneys and County Attorneys (B.1.1 & B.1.3) (8)	\$ 123,480	\$ 112,000		See cross-agency issue 1	
District Attorneys, Criminal District Attorneys and County Attorneys (B.1.2) (156)	\$ 154,530	\$ 140,000		See cross-agency issue 1	
A.1.1 DISTRICT JUDGES	\$ 174,216,778	\$ 163,797,013	\$ 10,419,765	See cross-agency issue 1 for strategies A.1.1 through D.1.2.	
A.1.2 VISITING JUDGES - REGIONS	\$ 27,465,750	\$ 26,911,012	\$ 554,738		
A.1.3 VISITING JUDGES - APPELLATE	\$ 730,000	\$ 694,740	\$ 35,260		
A.1.7 MDL SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$ 370,384	\$ 349,320	\$ 21,064		
B.1.1 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS: SALARIES	\$ 1,808,593	\$ 1,709,322	\$ 99,271		
B.1.2 PROFESSIONAL PROSECUTORS: SALARIES	\$ 54,101,193	\$ 50,304,505	\$ 3,796,688		
B.1.3 FELONY PROSECUTORS: SALARIES	\$ 903,408	\$ 816,328	\$ 87,080		
C.1.1 CONSTITUTIONAL CO. JUDGE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 14,125,294	\$ 13,282,794	\$ 842,500		
C.1.2 STATUTORY CO. JUDGE 573 SUPPLEMENT	\$ 46,772,635	\$ 43,572,490	\$ 3,200,145		
C.1.3 STATUTORY PROBATE JUDGE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 4,907,747	\$ 4,659,572	\$ 248,175		
C.1.4 1ST MULTICOUNTY COURT AT LAW	\$ 327,770	\$ 306,000	\$ 21,770		
D.1.2 COUNTY ATTORNEY SUPPLEMENT	\$ 14,515,755	\$ 13,574,124	\$ 941,631		
D.1.4 SPECIAL PROSECUTION UNIT, WALKER CO	\$ 12,948,221	\$ 12,496,117	\$ 452,104		House provides \$904,208 in General Revenue for biennium for salary parity for 43.0 SPU FTEs with equivalent Walker County criminal investigator, prosecutor, and support staff positions. Senate provides \$452,104 in General Revenue for the same purpose.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Contingency for House Bill 130		IV-37, Rider #11 Rider Packet, page IV-5		Senate rider requires the agency to use \$840,000 in General Revenue each fiscal year in salaries for the judges of six newly established district courts in accordance with Government Code, Section 659.012 contingent upon the enactment of House Bill 130, relating to the creation of the 15th Court of Appeals.

Article IV Agencies with No Issues

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Office of Capital and Forensic Writs	IV-29	IV-28		
Special Provisions - Judiciary	IV-39	IV-39		